



# G-5's "Eye on AMC"

## U.S. Army Materiel Command

*Essential in Peace, Indispensable in War*

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### DoD discusses new supply tracking system with vendors

Defense Department officials met this week with hundreds of vendors to discuss plans for implementing technology common among today's retailers to revolutionize the supply chain on the battlefield.

Military logisticians hope to take the "factory to the foxhole" by using radio-frequency identification, or RFID, tags to improve the supply chain while reducing cost. The RFID technology has become part of a new DoD initiative making it mandatory for all items in the department's inventory to be distinguishable from one another.

Acting Undersecretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Michael Wynne said RFID technology is a way for DoD to ensure military forces get everything they need, from "food and water to supply parts."

Wynne said he intends to have RFID tags "capture information about all critical assets as they move throughout DoD's supply chain" to decrease supply-chain costs and improve efficiency. Military logisticians will know exactly what is on a shipment pallet or container without having to unwrap it, he said.

The technology enables vendors to track where their supplies are located in DoD's supply chain process, he said.

"We don't think our requirements are significantly different or different at all from those in the commercial sector," said Ed Coyle, chief of the Automatic Identification Technology Office for DoD Logistics, "and from that perspective, we need to play very heavily with those in the commercial sector to make sure that the product we come up with collectively meets DoD's requirements. We don't want to have to be unique," he said.

Alan F. Estevez, assistant deputy undersecretary of defense for supply chain integration, said DoD needs the technology for the same reason that has driven its adoption in industry: so that when the customer needs something, it's there.

"Wal-Mart is doing it so that there is no 'stock out' for customers shopping in their stores," he said. "We have the same view. We don't want to 'stock out' for Soldiers, sailors or airmen out in the field."

*From the American Forces Information Service*

### Employee's ingenuity makes job easier

Lark Berhman, an explosive test operator/weapons manager at Picatinny's Armament Technology Facility had the job of separating fired small caliber shell spent casings and steel links with a hand magnetizer. Knowing there must be a safer and faster way to do this, she started researching ways to replace this manual process.

Berhman searched the Internet and contacted various manufacturers to find a magnetic industrial separator that would save time and money. When the heavy unit arrived, she had it modified by mounting it to a metal stand with rollers and two stainless steel containers under the unit to catch the separated casings and links. Then, she had an electrician hook up the power to the machine and the stand.

The new unit, dubbed the "CLEM" (casings and links extracted magnetically), which was inspected by the safety and industrial hygiene office, has now replaced hand sorting of thousands of rounds of fired shell casings and steel links. It separates the metals and drops the brass and steel in separate stainless steel containers that are located on the skid under the CLEM unit.

According to Bill Priester, safety specialist and occupational specialist/quality manager, the CLEM unit, which is a prototype, can do the separation process in one-tenth the time it used to take manually.

*"You really ought to take a lot of pride in yourselves in the great part you're playing in this global war on terrorism."*

~ Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, talking to workers at Rock Island Arsenal April 7.